

# HIGH SHOALS

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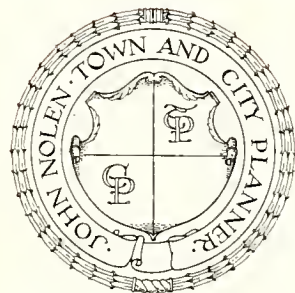
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BELOW THE DAM



# High Shoals



FROM THE BRIDGE, LOOKING UP THE RIVER

Gaston County, N. C.

1908

OBSERVER PRINTING HOUSE  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

# HIGH SHOALS

GASTON COUNTY, N. C.



A Southern Cotton Mill Town

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THE COTTON COMES FROM THE NEARBY FARM TO THE MILL



NESTLING down among the stately pines, oaks, and hickories of North Carolina, in the heart of the Piedmont Region, lies the cotton mill town of High Shoals. At an altitude of a thousand feet, with its ever-cool mornings and evenings, its golden sunshine at all seasons, its pure mountain air, added to the cleanliness of the town itself, High Shoals may be called a natural health resort, and an appropriate location for a working population to live.

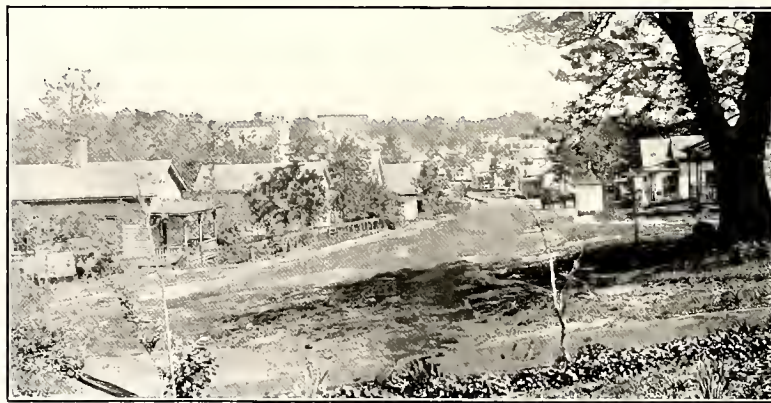
The village is about thirty miles from Charlotte, on the Carolina and North-Western Railway. The town is situated on the banks of the picturesque South Fork of the Catawba River, whose waters, as they rush over dam and foaming shoals, from which the name High Shoals is derived, resemble the roar of the ocean, and at night lull one to peaceful slumber.



STREET SCENE—EVENING

**M**OST of the working population of High Shoals are carders, spinners, and weavers. The manufacture of cotton cloth requires the work of other trades, but almost all are comprised in the above enumeration. The cloths made are plain white sheetings, of about the weight and quality of ordinary bed sheets.

**W**HILE High Shoals is essentially a mill town, it is an ideal one. The accompanying pictures show two of its streets, well kept and free from rubbish as they always are, with the simple but well-built houses on either side—the comfortable homes of the mill employees.



MORNING STREET SCENE





A COTTAGE HOME AT HIGH SHOALS



SPRINGTIME—IN THE PARK

**A**LMOST every yard has its sweet blooming mass of shrubs and flowers, while luxuriant vines of the lovely old fashioned roses or sweet smelling honeysuckle cover the piazzas. Here on a summer afternoon the babies may play safe from the heat of the sun, while their mothers sit contented at their sewing. The people take great pride in their gardens, and the competition among them is keen.

**A**S an extra incentive, five prizes are given annually for the best gardens, as follows: 1, for flowers, \$10.00; 2, for flowers, \$5.00; 1, for vegetable garden, \$10.00; 2, for vegetable garden, \$5.00; and for best kept general premises, \$10.00. These prizes have been given for the past six years. A committee chosen by the residents awards these, after carefully inspecting each garden.

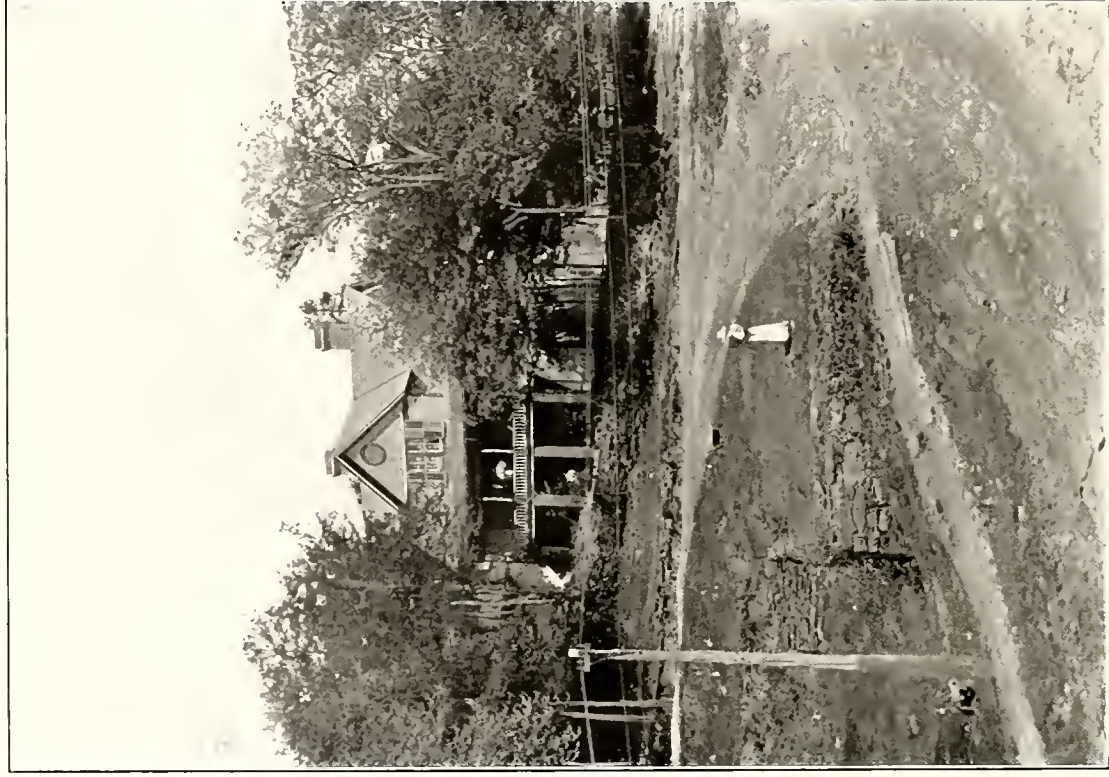


COMFORT IN THE SHADE OF THE FLOWERS

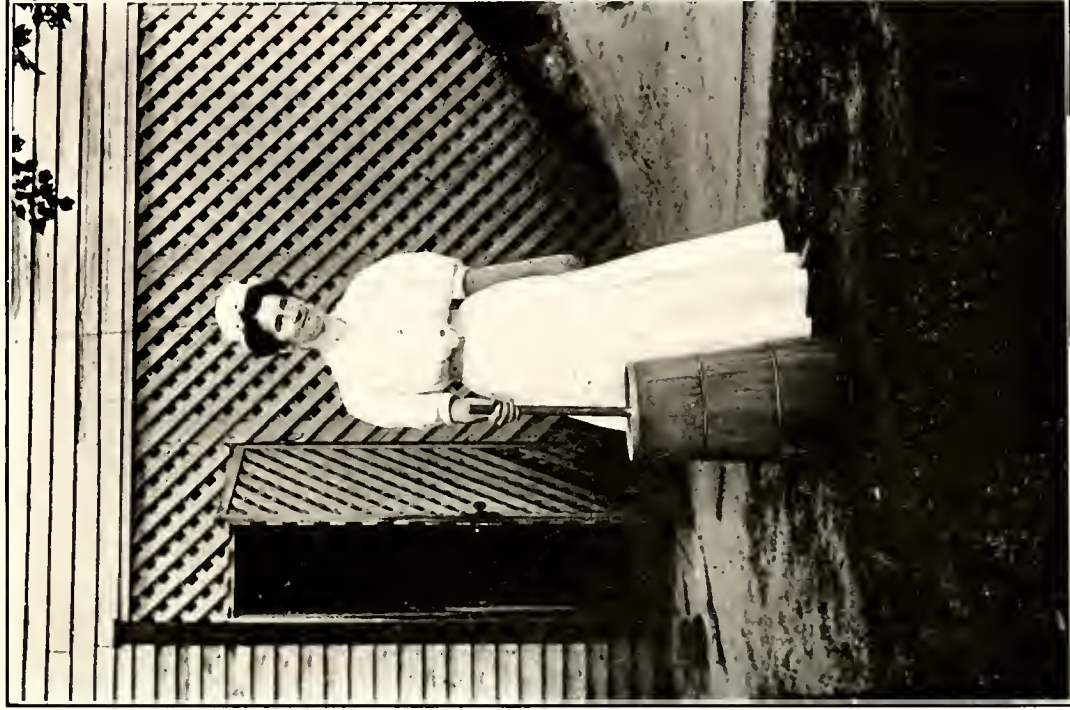


ANOTHER HIGH SHOALS COTTAGE HOME

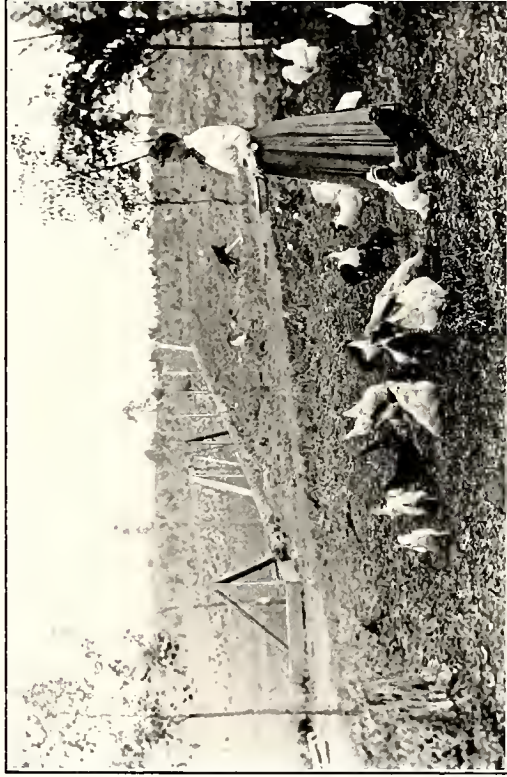




HIGH SHOALS HOTEL--THE ROAD UP THE HILL



HIGH SHOALS HOTEL—HOW THE BUTTER IS MADE



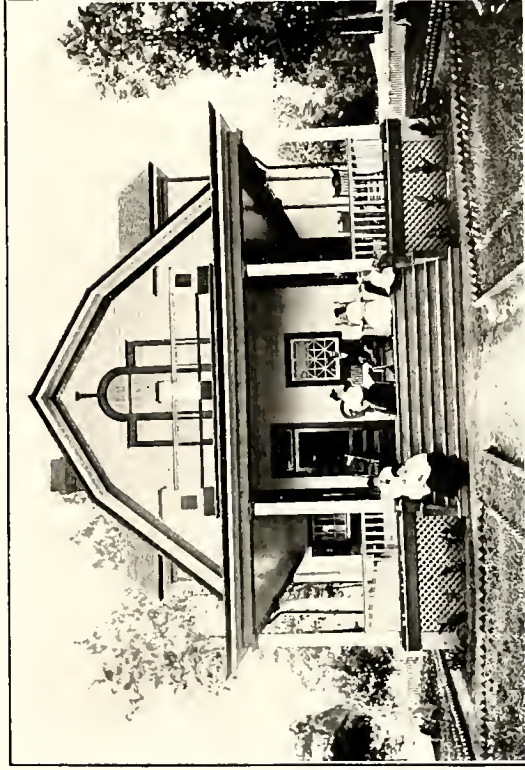
MUTUAL FRIENDS

**H**IGH SHOALS is the best sort of country for poultry. Turkeys, chickens, ducks, and pigeons all thrive and abound. Many families at High Shoals have cows of their own, and good fresh milk and butter are abundant. There is ample pasturage, and the cost of keeping a cow is very small. After a small initiation fee, pasturage is ever afterwards free.

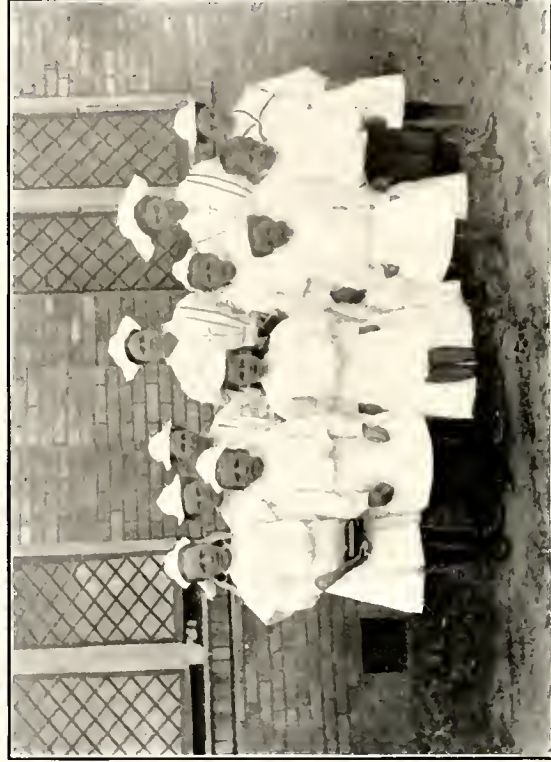


THE LIVERY STABLE

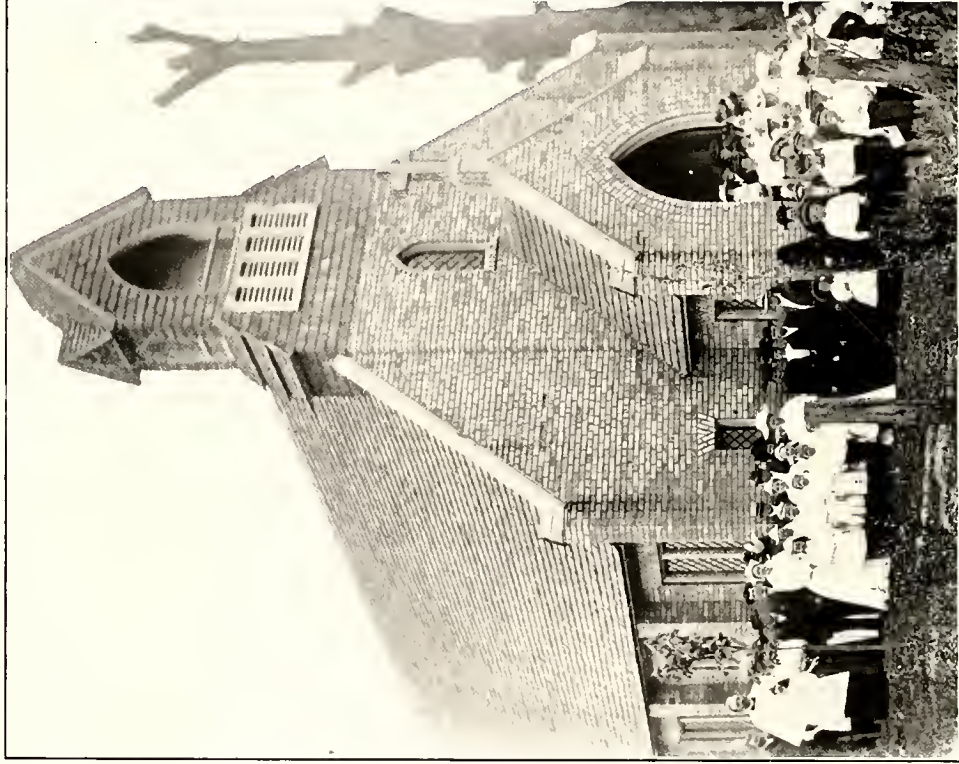




THE SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME



EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHOIR



AFTER SERVICE—EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**R**IGHT in the heart of the village stands the Episcopal Church, a very substantial-looking building of light brick, the interior beautifully finished in light-colored, well-polished woodwork. The minister preaches once a month, delivering sermons at three other churches in neighboring towns on the other Sundays. Extra services, however, are often held.



#### THE RECESSIONAL

**T**HE new Protestant Episcopal Church was built chiefly by the influence of the Misses Jane and Eliza Wilkes. Mr. Sol. Hovis has had charge of the Sunday School for thirty-six years.



MISS ELIZA WILKES

**I**MMEDIATELY after the Civil War, Rear-Admiral Charles Wilkes retired from the United States Navy, and bought the High Shoals Iron Works. He spent a number of years there operating it. His daughters, Misses Jane and Eliza Wilkes, spent their younger days there.

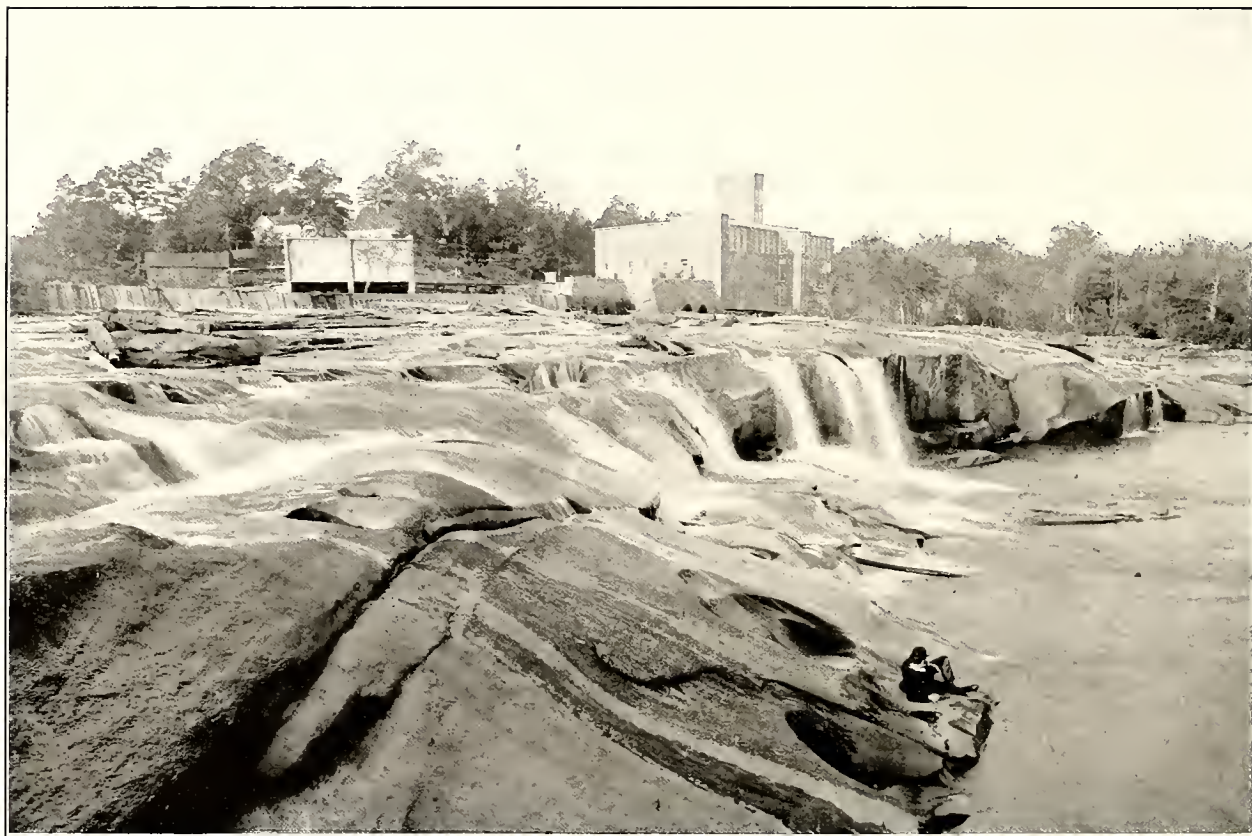




MISS JANE WILKES

**T**HE Misses Wilkes founded the Episcopal Church at High Shoals, and in the interim between their return to Washington and the building of the cotton mill there, these ladies have made periodic visits, and kept up their interest in the church.

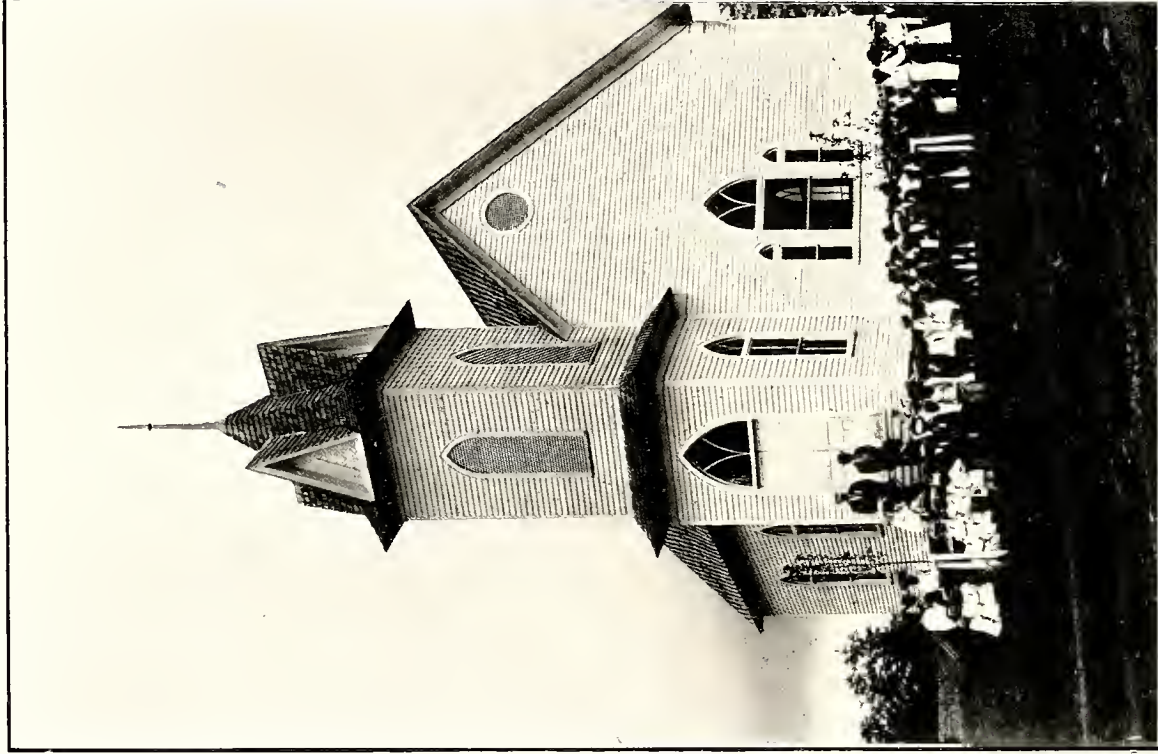




THE MILL AND FALLS BELOW THE DAM



METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL



METHODIST CHURCH AND PART OF CONGREGATION





BAPTISM IN THE SULPHUR BRANCH

**T**HE Baptists immerse their converts in a running stream of clear water, without shelter or enclosure, in precisely the same way that John the Baptist immersed Christ in the River Jordan. During the summer of 1908, there were forty-nine converts immersed on one day, and fourteen on another day, following a "protracted meeting."





BAPTIST CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



BARACA CLASS—BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL





GIRLS' CLASS—BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL



BAPTISMAL SCENE—THE BENEDICTION



**S**ITUATED at the end of the long village street on which the others stand, is the Baptist Church, with a large and active congregation. The regular services are twice a month, with extra services frequently. The Sunday School, large and still growing, is held every Sunday.

**T**HE children of the Episcopal Church take a great interest in the already large Sunday School, which is growing rapidly. Those of the Sunday School who have unusually good voices are trained by the Deaconesses, and a very pretty choir of sweet little children sing during church services.



BAPTIZING A YOUNG LADY

**O**NE of the large congregations in High Shoals is the Methodist Episcopal Church. Services are held regularly twice a month, the pastor having several other churches elsewhere of which he takes charge. The Methodist Sunday School is large and flourishing.

**I**N THE above picture, showing the baptism of a young lady, the man on the right at the top of the steps will lead the new convert to the Baptist faith out of the water, and the one on the left holds a cloak to throw over her as she goes to the tent dressing-room near by.



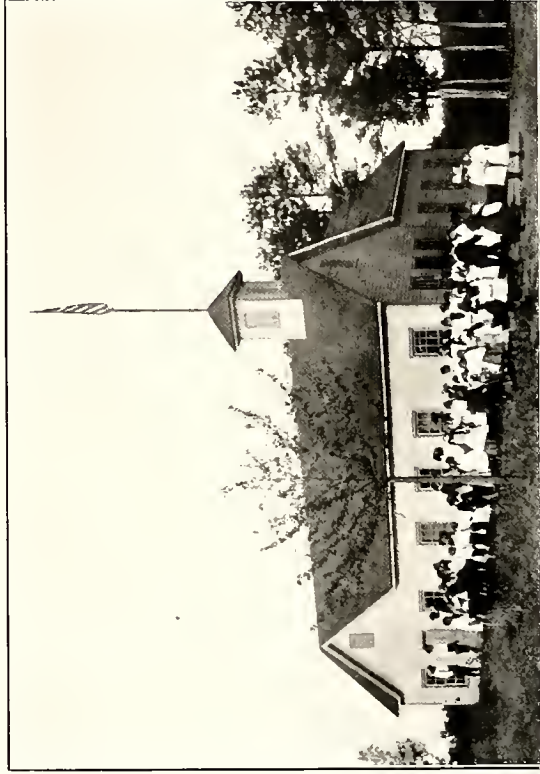
GIRLS' SENIOR CLASS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

**I**N THE village there are two splendid schools—one the regular public school, and the other the Parochial School of the Episcopal Church. The Public Graded School is always well filled, and is taught by a competent force of teachers. The building is a modern wooden structure, with large, light rooms. It has a seating capacity of about 200 pupils. The course is the same as may be found in any graded public school of high standing.

**T**HE Episcopal School and Kindergarten, which are under the supervision of the Church, are taught by the Deaconesses Eva and Mary. These gentle Deaconesses divide their work—one teaches, the other nurses the sick of the village. And both are loved by everybody for the good they do.



THE KINDERGARTNERS



THE PUBLIC SCHOOL



JUNIOR CLASS, DISTRICT SCHOOL



BOYS' SENIOR CLASS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

**T**HE Kindergarten Classes, like those of the Primary School, are thoroughly trained in every way, and the children as well as their teachers are justly proud of them. Often, on occasions, simple refreshments are served to the children, before returning home, to add to their already thoroughly enjoyed day.



A CLASS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL





DEACONESS EVA AND HER PAROCHIAL SCHOOL



DEACONESS MARY'S CLASS IN SEWING



DEACONESS MARY DRESSES A WOUND



BOATING ON THE POND



(1) ORANGES (2) CAKES AND LEMONADE (3) AFTER THE FEAST





AT THE EASTER PARTY



LITTLE MOTHERS





THE FRESHET



THE HIGH SHOALS BAND





FOURTH OF JULY PICNICKERS

**A** JOYOUS celebration of the Fourth of July is always had at High Shoals. In the old days before the Revolutionary War, the rifle makers of the Piedmont went to the Shoals to get

the fine iron which they used for their rifle barrels. In those old days, there was one of the best iron works in America at High Shoals. The rifles made from High Shoals iron were an important factor, on the Kentucky frontier against hostile Indians, and at Cowpens, King's Mountain, and other

battlefields against the British forces, during the War of the Revolution. From the hills about High Shoals, one may obtain a distant glimpse of King's Mountain, where the historic battle was fought.

**O**N THE last "Fourth," there were addresses, picnic dinners, more addresses, and multitudinous games. Perhaps the most interesting was what was called the "Egg Race," with eight

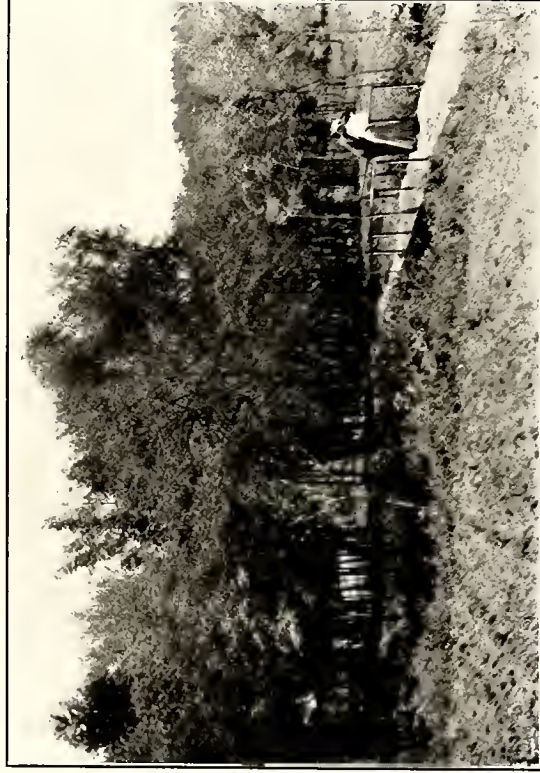
young lady entries. Each one was required to hold a teaspoon by the handle, bowl up. An egg was placed in each spoon. They ran, at the word "Go," from one end of the river bridge to the other. When an egg was dropped, that girl was out of the race. Only two or



AN IDLE HOUR BY THE PAVILION IN THE PARK

three got to the goal end of the bridge with their eggs still safe in the spoon. Many other sports were indulged in—running, jumping, etc.—prizes being awarded to the winners of the different events.





THE APPROACH TO THE PARK



IN THE PARK, BY THE CLEAR, COLD SPRING



THE SULPHUR SPRING, SHINING BLUE AMONG THE TREES



RAPIDS BELOW THE DAM



A PULL ALTOGETHER FOR THE BANK



ISHING at High Shoals is very fair. The river has an abundance of large carp, some suckers and bass, plenty of catfish, and in certain seasons eels in great abundance. The wheels of the factory have been so choked with eels that it was necessary to stop and chop them out of the buckets.



OVER THE DAM—DOWN THE RIVER





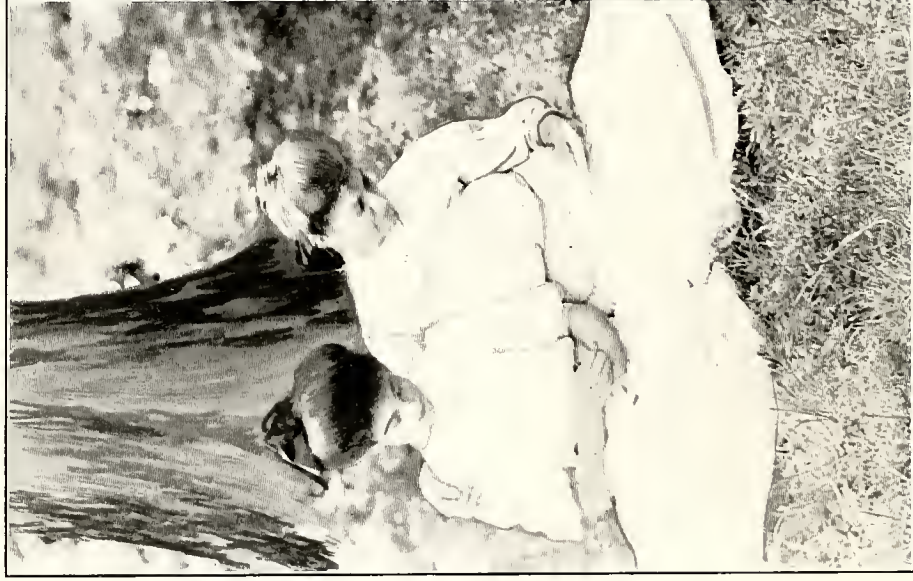
OFF FOR A CRUISE ON THE RIVER



AN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK

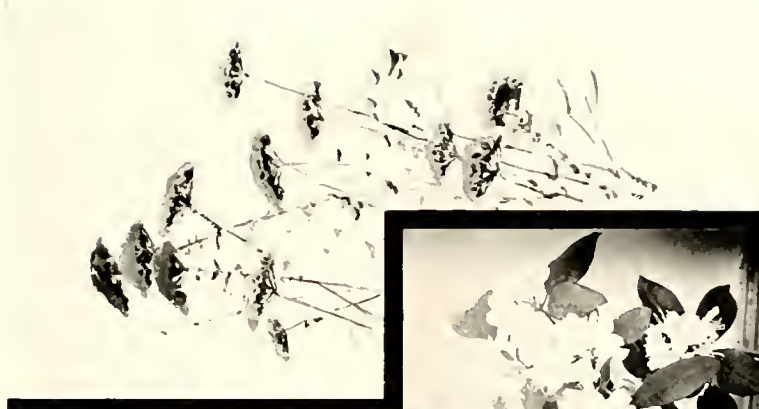


GOLD is found on much of the land about High Shoals, and formerly a large gold reduction works were operated at the Shoals.



#### CONFIDENCES

OFTEN on a holiday a party is arranged for all the children. In another picture these little ones are seen enjoying themselves at an Easter Egg Hunt.



FLOWERS OF THE NEIGHBORING WILDWOOD

**H**UNTING is excellent in the surrounding country. The boys hunt rabbits in the daytime, and opossums by night. The best hunting is for quail, and this particular hunting is very excellent. There are foxes, not much hunted, and some few golden-winged pheasants. The boys catch many turtles in the river, so that real turtle soup is no uncommon thing at the Shoals.



**H**IGH Shoals is in a mineral country. Near the place is a sulphur spring, an arsenic spring, and a lithia spring. The lithia spring is owned by the Lincoln Lithia Country Club, but is available to visitors from High Shoals if accompanied by a member of the Club.



HUNTERS AND THEIR BIG GAME—THE BOYS HAVE KILLED A CRANE

**O**N THE smaller streams in the country about High Shoals are a number of old-fashioned waterpower gristmills. From these the Shoals people get supplies of real old-fashioned, water-ground cornmeal and hominy, and whole wheat. A little higher up the mountains, the real water-ground buckwheat flour can be had, and also maple syrup. The cream and the butter are the real homemade article.



**H**IGH Shoals was settled, about 1760, by John Fullenwider. He built an iron works, having a number of Catlan

forges, several trip hammers, and a number of trains of rolls to make round, flat, and square bars. These works were of great service to the patriots during the Revolutionary War.



**N**EAR High Shoals is the Lincoln Lithia Country Club.

Visitors can reach the Club via the Carolina and North-Western Railway (leaving the train at High Shoals, and going thence to the Club in a surry), or via the Seaboard Air Line Railway, getting off at Lincolnton Station, and again via surry to the Club.

The membership of the Club is near 200, and is composed almost entirely of ladies and gentlemen from various southern cities and localities.

The location of the Club, being on the foothills of the mountains, and possessing an ideal climate, makes it an all-the-year-round resort for health and recreation.

**T**HE Club has nearly three hundred acres of land, a portion of which is laid off in building lots. Many of the owners of these contemplate erecting cottages on their property.

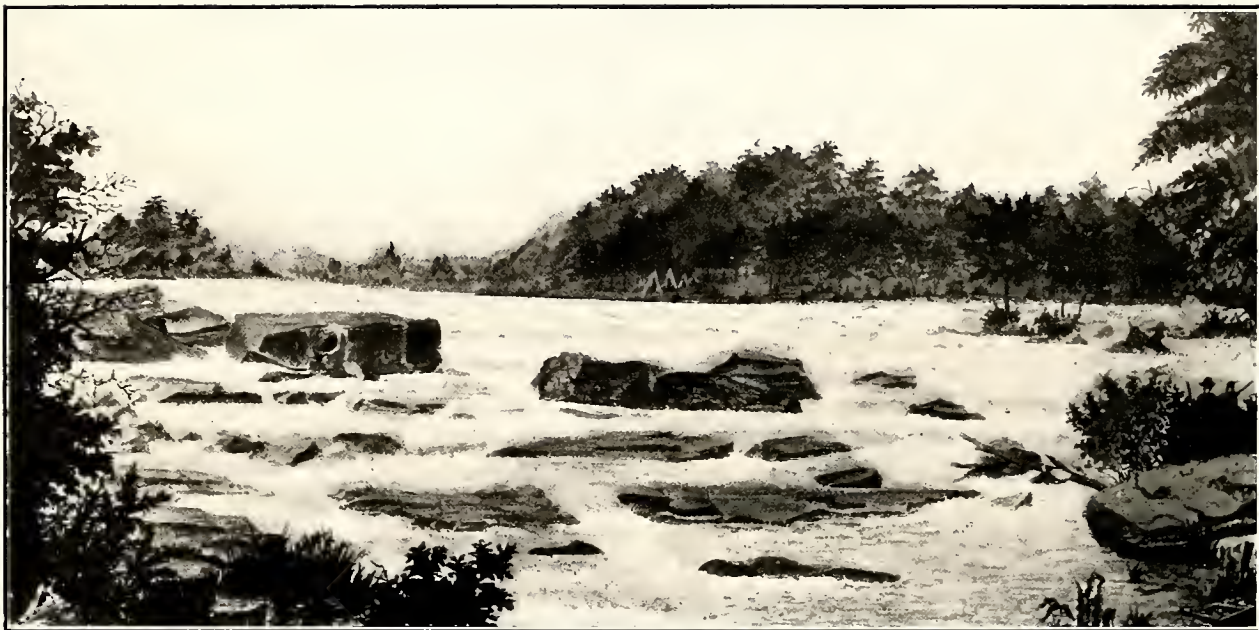


AT THE LINCOLN LITHIA COUNTRY CLUB

Bowling alleys, golf links, good livery, and excellent quail shooting constitute some of the principal attractions. There is a good system of water works, and the club house is equipped with all modern conveniences throughout. The Club keeps a herd of cattle on its own

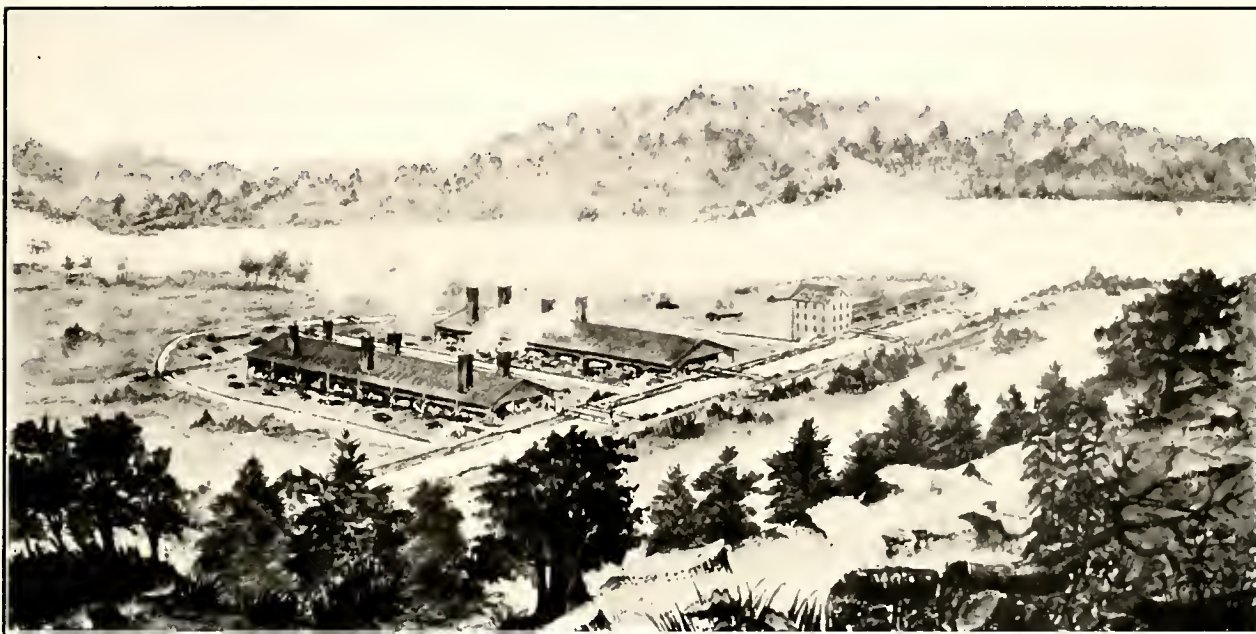
pastures, from which its milk and butter supply comes.

There is a "Sulphur Mine" (iron pyrites) within a couple of miles of the town, and the Sulphur Branch comes from this mine.



HIGH SHOALS IN 1750

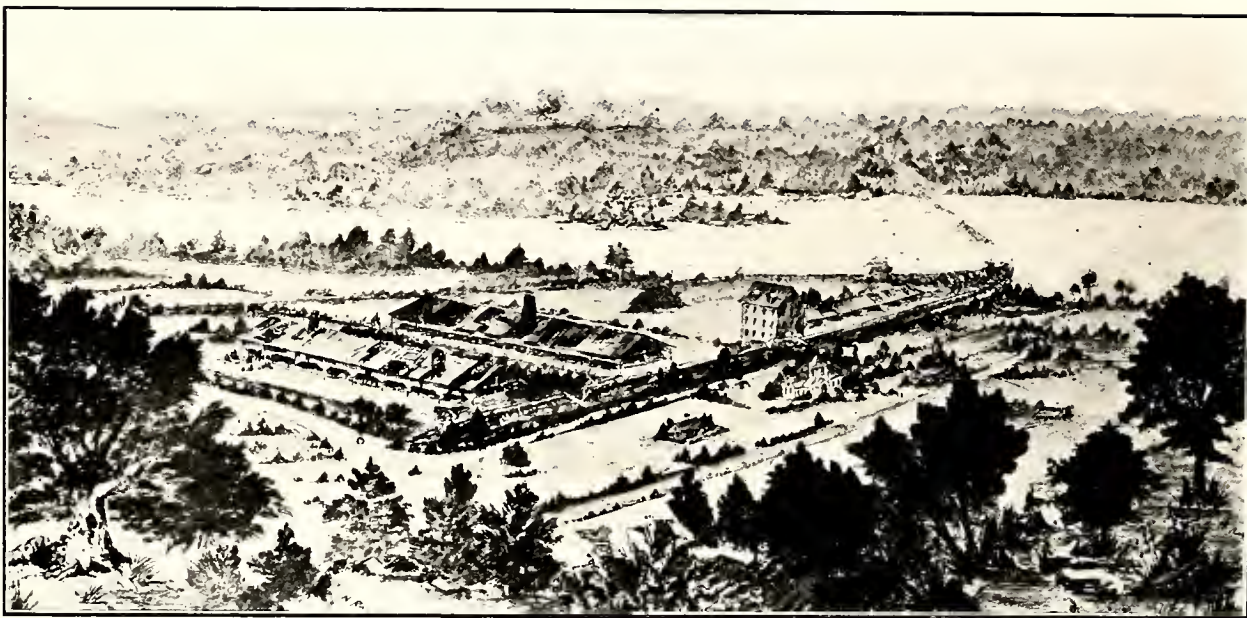
THE above cut shows the High Shoals waterpower as it appeared in 1750, when the surrounding country was largely inhabited by Indians, and the white population was very scant.



HIGH SHOALS IN 1800

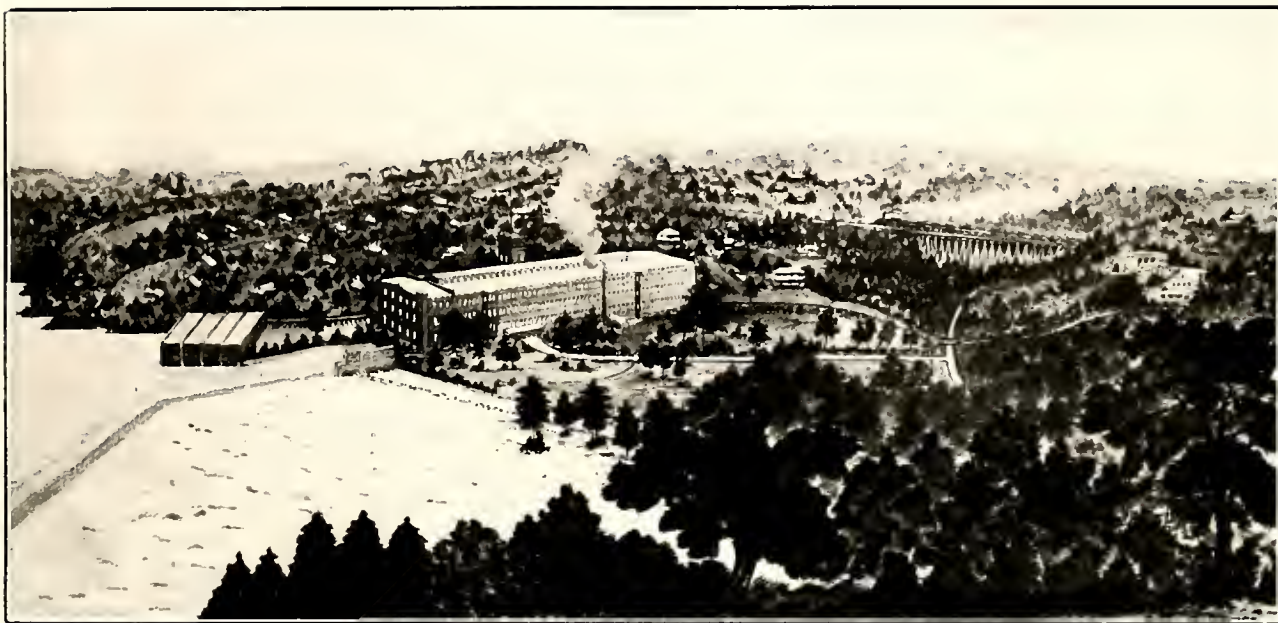
**H**ERE is shown the waterpower as it appeared in 1800. Inside the fifty years preceding, there had been developed in the neighborhood a very considerable manufacturing interest. Amongst other industries, there were numerous blast furnaces, making charcoal pig iron. At High Shoals there was an extensive iron works, making bars, nails, plowshares, and other products in wrought iron. The waterpower operated the rolling mills. This was before the institution of slavery became of dominant influence in the South. These iron works and most of the other industries were operated by intelligent free white labor, which was then abundant.





HIGH SHOALS IN 1850

**T**HE appearance of this High Shoals iron works in 1850 is represented in the above picture. As the influence of slavery grew, the manufacturing interests of the Piedmont region not only made no progress, but actually retrograded. The illustration shows the wreck of the former prosperous iron works at a time when agriculture and slave labor had become dominant.



HIGH SHOALS IN 1900

**I**N THE early part of the preceding half-century, slavery was abolished, and after the restoration of civil order and good government there was immediately a revival of the manufacturing interest. The illustration shows a new development of the waterpower, and a cotton mill which has been constructed over the site of the old iron works. As in the first fifty years of the nineteenth century the adverse influence of slavery is made apparent, so in the last fifty years of the same century the wholesome influence of free institutions is equally illustrated by the new development at High Shoals.



















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